

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Xavier Lazo New Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Report Categories:

Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

On August 17, 2018, Ecuador's President Lenín Moreno appointed Xavier Lazo as Minister of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG). His appointment follows the sudden firing of Acting Minister Dr. Mariuxi Gómez and the resignation of former Minister Rubén Flores. Minister Lazo is the fourth Minister of Agriculture of the Lenin Moreno Administration, which took office in May 2017.

Minister Xavier Lazo



Source: <https://www.agricultura.gob.ec/ministro-a/>

On August 21, 2018, via Presidential Decree no. 487, President Lenín Moreno appointed Xavier Lazo Minister of Agriculture and Livestock. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Lazo worked in the banana sector. Mr. Lazo is described as pragmatic and down-to-earth, with an eye for sustainability and innovation. In his banana business, for example, Mr. Lazo has embraced Fair Trade and organic production.

Mr. Lazo has emphasized his knowledge of Ecuador's agricultural sector and his determination to move farmers from subsistence- and low-yield agriculture to high-value, high-yield agriculture. He plans to do this while supporting small and medium-size farmers. Minister Lazo holds a degree in agronomy from EARTH University in Costa Rica. As he takes office Minister Lazo will inherit the challenge of addressing an ongoing price crisis and abundant stocks in the rice sector.